



# BARNET AUTISM STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

## Barnet ASAP Overview

Initiated in 2019, the Barnet ASAP aligns with the national strategy's key objectives.

Originally developed with the involvement of parent/carers, lived experience, and professionals across Health, Education, Social Care, Housing, and Justice, as well as Barnet partners, ensuring a unified and coherent approach to supporting Autistic individuals across the lifespan.

The plan experienced a temporary pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019-2021. However, our commitment to its fulfillment remained unwavering.

## WELCOME

### Welcome to Barnet's Autism Strategy Action Plan (ASAP)

This is a comprehensive action plan designed to enrich the lives and experiences of Autistic individuals, along with their families and caregivers, spanning education and community settings.

Rooted in the All-age National Autism Strategy 2021-2026, our local approach emphasises cultural change and an unwavering commitment to listening, learning, and co-producing with the Autistic community and their families and carers.

## Our Vision

[The All Age National Strategy for Autistic Children, Young People and Adults 2021-2026](#)

outlines a clear vision to enhance the lives of Autistic people and their families over the next five years.

In Barnet, we are dedicated to translating this vision into meaningful, locally relevant initiatives.

By fostering cultural change, our goal is to create a community where Autistic individuals can thrive, supported by understanding, inclusivity, and collaboration.

## All Age Autism National Strategy and the Barnet Autism Strategy Action Plan

There are six key areas in the National Strategy, and our steering group has aligned the Barnet ASAP to ensure we fulfil these targets.

1. Improving understanding and acceptance of autism within society

2. Improving autistic children and young people's access to education and supporting positive transitions into adulthood

3. Supporting more autistic people into employment

4. Tackling health and care inequalities for autistic people

5. Building the right support in the community and supporting people in inpatient care

6. Improving support within the criminal and youth justice systems

**AUTISTIC VOICES MATTER:** Central to our approach is the recognition and value placed on Autistic voices. We actively seek input from Autistic individuals and their families/carers to guide decision-making processes. Co-production with the Autistic community is integral to our action plan, ensuring that their perspectives shape the changes we implement.

**STRATEGIC COLLABORATION:** A multi-agency steering group oversees the Barnet ASAP, meeting termly to update on progress, set actions, and align with national strategy objectives. The Autism LEG (Leading Edge Group) plays a pivotal role in task completion, bringing together representatives from education, social care, health, special schools, community partners, parent/carers, and individuals with autistic lived experiences. There are also other task groups across Social Care and Health.

**INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY BUILDING:** Barnet remains resolute in its commitment to building an inclusive community where Autistic individuals can lead fulfilling lives. Recognising the impact that being Autistic can have on various aspects of life, our aim is to create a society that not only includes but deeply understands and appreciates the uniqueness and strengths of each individual.

**TOWARDS MEANINGFUL CHANGE:** The Barnet ASAP is more than a plan; it is a commitment to making a real and positive difference in the lives of Autistic people and their families. Through collaborative efforts and partnerships, we aspire to design services, provide spaces, and instigate cultural change that significantly enhances outcomes for our Autistic community.

**KEY AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT:** The Barnet ASAP focuses on key areas of development to ensure a holistic approach. These include but are not limited to education, social care, health, youth justice, adult social care (including employment and housing). Together, we can shape a future where Autistic individuals are valued, understood, and empowered to live their lives to the fullest in a community that understands their needs and offers support.